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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Ambassador Edelman: "US Expecting Support from Turkey in Iraq" - Hurriyet
Richard Perle: "US Made Mistakes in Iraq" -Hurriyet
US Ambassador Asks Support on Iraq at his Courtesy Visit to FM Gul - Milliyet
Bremer: "We cannot Rebuild Iraq without Foreign Support" - Milliyet
Deputy PM Sener: "US Loan not Linked to Turkish Troops"
-Sabah
Ubeydi Tribe Wants Turkish Soldiers Under UN Umbrella - Sabah
Arrest Warrant for Kemal Uzan - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

HR Committee Chairman Elkamis Warns US Delegation - Cumhuriyet
Ankara's Humanitarian Aid Initiative Intended to Win Iraqis' Support - Zaman
Edelman Requests Support From FM Gul on Iraq - Zaman
Elkamis to US Delegation: Stop Your Threats and Blackmail - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Troop Deployment: Today's papers cover the news on contacts between Turkish officials and leaders of Iraq's Arab Ubeydi tribe. Representatives of the Ubeydi tribe met yesterday with Deputy Undersecretary Ali Tuygan at the foreign ministry. "Zaman" notes that the tribe offered cooperation against Kurdish peshmerge militants. "Turkiye" reports that the tribal leaders advised the Turks not to go into Iraq with US forces, but rather under a UN umbrella. "Vatan" notes that Ankara will continue its contacts with Iraqi tribal leaders.

Ambassador Edelman: Most papers report on the courtesy visit Ambassador Edelman paid yesterday to Foreign Minister Gul. "Hurriyet" notes that Iraq was the top issue during the 50-minute meeting. Ambassador Edelman told FM Gul that 'Turkey and the US are strategic partners, and this understanding will continue.' Edelman openly expressed US expectations about the sending of troops to Iraq. "Radikal" reports that at a reception at his residence yesterday, Ambassador Edelman was said that 'the loans offered to Turkey and the deployment of Turkish troops in Iraq are two different issues. The loan is linked to cooperation in general, not to a troop deployment in Iraq.'

US Public Diplomacy Advisory Group Visit: The US has begun to investigate its public image in Turkey and the reasons behind recent problems between the two countries. A delegation from the Public Diplomacy Advisory Group at the State Department visited Parliamentary Human Rights Commission Chairman Mehmet Elkamis yesterday to discuss the issue. When asked by the delegation leader, Ambassador Edward Djerejian -- a former deputy secretary of state, about his evaluation of US policies, Elkamis said that the US must change its policies if it wants to continue its

alliance with Turkey. Current US attitudes, Elkhatmis added, are not in keeping with that friendship. If we are to contribute to global peace together, the US must revise its policies.'

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Weak leadership in Turkey"

Cengiz Candar noted in the mass appeal DB-Tercuman (8/28): "Glossy statements cannot hide the weak leadership and inconstancy of the Erdogan-Gul duo on Iraq. They are trying to arrive at a decision through asking the Sunni Iraqi tribal leaders who have had ambiguous relations with the former Baath regime, opinion research questions such as 'should we go to Iraq,' and 'if we do, how would you greet us?' There is no substantial difference between President Sezer and the government regarding foreign policy decisions. The President's seeking international consensus on Iraq under a UN license while the government's seeking consensus with the Sunni Arab tribal leaders. It's interesting that those who think too little of the Iraqi Kurdish leaders, almost respect a blackmailing by the Arab tribal leaders who warned that Turkish troops would be treated like Americans in Iraq. Do you think countries with a firm vision of future determine their foreign policy by asking it to Sunni Arab tribal leaders?"

"Wasting Turkomen for the sake of ignoring the Kurdish problem"

Koray Duzgoren argued in the Islamic/intellectual "Yeni Safak" (8/28): "U.S. has clearly assumed responsibility for the security of Northern Iraq, and told Turkey not to be concerned of KADEK anymore. . The Turkomen minority has become the sole reason for Turkey to remain in Northern Iraq. . Everybody in Northern Iraq knows that the Iraqi Turkoman Front (ITF) office in Northern Iraq is the center of Turkey's intelligence activities. U.S. troops had seized tons of explosives and arms at the ITF office in Suleymaniye. Recent incidents in Suleymaniye and Kirkuk show Turkey's decisiveness to use the Turkomen minority for its activities in the region. . Some advise that the Turkomen should be armed in the face of KDP and PUK policies. Such a 'national' policy by Turkey leaves the Turkomen a sole alternative of facing atrocities and thus leaving the region. . Turkey's interests require the Turkomen to join Iraq's rebuilding as a main element of Iraq. Turkey cannot waste the Turkomen for the sake of ignoring the Kurdish problem."

EDELMAN